

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-20 DRC-01 OMB-01 /089 W

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R 120800Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 533

INFO CINCPAC

DIA WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2334

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CSOC REORGANIZATION

REF: BANGKOK 0322

1. THE THREE-MONTH INTERNAL STRUGGLE OVER THE FUTURE OF THE COMMUNIST SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS COMMAND (CSOC) (REFTEL), HAS ENDED WITH THE DECISION TO PLACE CSOC DIRECTLY UNDER THE PRIME MINISTER OR A DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, ACCORDING TO FEBRUARY 8 PRESS REPORTS CONFIRMED TO US BY MG PINYO VALADEJESA, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE CSOC OPERATIONS COORDINATION CENTER.

2. THE NEW CSOC REORGANIZATION PLAN, THE MAIN OUTLINES OF WHICH WERE CONTAINED IN A NOVEMBER PROPOSAL BY LTG SAIYUD KERDPHOL, COMMANDER OF THE CSOC OPERATIONS CONTROL CENTER, WOULD (A) REMOVE THE MOBILE DEVELOPMENT UNITS (QMDU) FROM THE NATIONAL SECURITY COMMAND AND PLACE THEM UNDER CSOC, AND (B) REMOVE THE ACCELERATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION FROM THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND ALSO PLACE IT UNDER CSOC. THE REORGANIZATION WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR THIS SUMMER.

3. COLONEL RAWEE WUNPHEN, CHIEF OF THE CSOC COUNTER-CONFIDENTIAL

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INSURGENCY INFORMATION CENTER TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER

FEBRUARY 8 THAT HE HAD BEEN DISCUSSING WITH A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THE POSSIBILITY OF FORMALIZING THIS REORGANIZATION THROUGH LEGISLATION, WHICH HE NOTED, WOULD SATISFY LTG SAIYUD'S WISH TO GIVE THE NEW CSOC ORGANIZATION LEGAL PERMANENT STATUS WITHIN THE RTG BUREAUCRACY.

5. COMMENT: THIS CHANGE WOULD PROBABLY ENHANCE CSOC PRESTIGE AND INFLUENCE VIS-A-VIS THE ELEMENTS OF THE RTG ENGAGED IN COUNTER-INSURGENCY AND THUS BE BENEFICIAL TO THE RTG CI EFFORT. IT IS NOT UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, (A) THAT BETWEEN NOW AND THE GENERAL ELECTION THIS DECISION COULD BE ALTERED; AND (B) THAT A POST-ELECTION GOVERNMENT MIGHT HAVE DIFFERENT IDEAS CONCERNING CSOC'S FUTURE.
KINTNER

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